

OPINIONS AND DECLARATIONS RENDERED BY THE INTER- NATIONAL COMMISSION ON ZOOLOGICAL NOMENCLATURE

Edited by

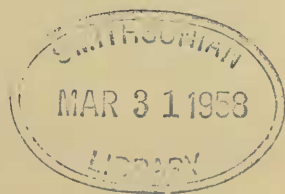
FRANCIS HEMMING, C.M.G., C.B.E.

Secretary to the Commission

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DIRECTION 88

Clarification of the entry relating to the generic name
Oniscus Linnaeus, 1758 (Class Crustacea, Order Isopoda)
made on the *Official List of Generic Names in Zoology*
by the Ruling given in *Opinion 104*



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INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION ON ZOOLOGICAL NOMENCLATURE

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DIRECTION 88

CLARIFICATION OF THE ENTRY RELATING TO THE
GENERIC NAME "ONISCUS" LINNAEUS, 1758
(CLASS CRUSTACEA, ORDER ISOPODA) MADE
ON THE "OFFICIAL LIST OF GENERIC
NAMES IN ZOOLOGY" BY THE RULING
GIVEN IN "OPINION" 104

RULING :—(1) The under-mentioned entry relating to the generic name *Oniscus* Linnaeus, 1758 (Class Crustacea, Order Isopoda) is hereby inserted in the *Official List of Generic Names in Zoology* in place of the entry relating to that name made thereon by the Ruling given in *Opinion* 104 :—

Oniscus Linnaeus, 1758 (gender : masculine) (type species, by selection by Desmarest (E.) (1858) :
Oniscus asellus Linnaeus, 1758)

(2) The under-mentioned specific name is hereby placed on the *Official List of Specific Names in Zoology* with the Name No. 1485 :—

asellus Linnaeus, 1758, as published in the combination
Oniscus asellus (specific name of type species of
Oniscus Linnaeus, 1758)

(3) The under-mentioned specific name is hereby placed on the *Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Specific*

Names in Zoology with the Name No. 502 :—

asellus Cuvier (G.L.C.F.D.), 1792, as published in the combination *Oniscus asellus* (a junior homonym of *asellus* Linnaeus, 1758, as published in the combination *Oniscus asellus*)

I. THE SUBJECT MATTER OF THE PRESENT “ DIRECTION ”

The present *Direction* forms part of the concluding group of *Directions* embodying decisions clarifying, completing or correcting entries made on the *Official List of Generic Names in Zoology* in the period up to the end of 1936 taken by the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature in preparation for the publication of the foregoing *Official List* in book-form. The particular subject dealt with in this *Direction* is the entry relating to the generic name *Oniscus* Linnaeus, 1758 (Class Crustacea, Order Isopoda) made on the *Official List* by the Ruling given in *Opinion* 104. The issues involved in the present case were placed before the Commission by the Secretary in the following paper on 20th September 1957 :—

Proposed clarification of the entry on the “ Official List of Generic Names in Zoology ” relating to the generic name “ Oniscus ” Linnaeus, 1758 (Class Crustacea, Order Isopoda) made by the Ruling given in “ Opinion ” 104.

By FRANCIS HEMMING, C.M.G., C.B.E.

(*Secretary to the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature*)

The present note is concerned with the generic name *Oniscus* Linnaeus, 1758, the second¹ of the two names of genera of the Order Isopoda of the Class Crustacea which were placed on the *Official List of Generic Names in Zoology* by the Ruling given in *Opinion* 104 (1928, *Smithson*.

¹ The other Isopod generic name here referred to was *Armadillidium* Brandt & Ratzeburg, [1831], on which, as yet, no decision has been taken by the Commission.

misc. Coll. 73 (No. 5) : 25—28), the position as regards which was, it will be recalled, postponed for further consideration when in June 1956 the Commission examined the question of placing on the *Official List of Specific Names in Zoology* the specific names of the type species of genera belonging to various invertebrate groups, the names of which had been placed on the *Official List of Generic Names in Zoology* in the period up to the end of 1936. This matter was discussed in a paper bearing the Registered Number Z.N.(S.) 1122 then submitted to the Commission with Voting Paper V.P.(O.M.)(56)14. The document in question has since been reproduced in *Direction* 67, in which was embodied the decision taken by the Commission on the foregoing Voting Paper.

2. The following is the entry on the *Official List* in regard to the generic name *Oniscus* Linnaeus, 1758, made by the Ruling given in the *Opinion* referred to above :—

Oniscus Linn., 1758a, 636, tsd. (1804) *asellus* Linn., 1758a, 637, (1810) *murarius* 1792 so. *asellus*

The foregoing cryptic formula may be interpreted as meaning : “ The type species of the genus *Oniscus* Linnaeus, 1758, is *Oniscus asellus* Linnaeus, 1758, by selection [by some unspecified author] in 1804 ; the same species under its synonym *Oniscus murarius* Cuvier, 1792, was selected as the type species of this genus [by some unspecified author] in 1810 ”.

3. The author referred to in *Opinion* 104 as having taken action in the matter of the type species of the genus *Oniscus* Linnaeus in 1804 and in 1810 was in each case Latreille. The references concerned are as follows :—(1) Latreille, [1803—1804], *Hist. nat. gén. partic. Crust. Ins.* 7 : 39 ; (2) Latreille, 1810, *Consid. gén. Anim. Crust. Arach. Ins.* : 423, 110).

4. The difficulty which led to the postponement of the present case in 1956 arose from the fact that in neither of the passages referred to above did Latreille make a valid type selection for the genus *Oniscus* Linnaeus, as will be seen from the following particulars of the action taken by Latreille in the works in question.

(a) In the *Hist. nat. gén. partic.* Latreille renamed *Oniscus asellus* Cuvier, 1792 (*J. Hist. nat.* (Choix des Mém.) 2 : 23) (a nominal taxon distinct from that to which the same name had been given by Linnaeus in 1758), calling it *Porcellio scaber* and designating it as the type species of his new genus *Porcellio*, while in *Oniscus* Linnaeus he placed *Oniscus murarius* Cuvier,

1792, at the same time synonymising it with *Oniscus asellus* Linnaeus, 1758. He did not however state that this species was the type species of *Oniscus* Linnaeus, 1758, although (as noted above) he did make such a designation in the case of his own genus *Porcellio*.

- (b) In the *Consid. gén.* of 1810 Latreille did make a definite selection of a type species for the genus *Oniscus* Linnaeus, specifying as such "*Oniscus murarius* Fab.". Fabricius in his *Ent. syst.* did not, however, introduce a new name consisting of the above combination, his use of this name being only a later usage of the name *Oniscus murarius* Cuvier, 1792. This type selection by Latreille is invalid, (1) as the nominal species so selected was not, and by reason of its later date could not have been, included in the genus *Oniscus* by Linnaeus in 1758, and (2) as none of the Linnean (1758) species was identified by Latreille in 1810 with *murarius* Cuvier.

5. We see therefore that the statement in *Opinion* 104 that the nominal species *Oniscus asellus* Linnaeus, 1758, was selected [by Latreille] in 1804 (*recte* [1803—1804]) as the type species of the genus *Oniscus* Linnaeus, 1758, was incorrect. The statement in that *Opinion* that the nominal species *Oniscus murarius* [Cuvier], 1792, was selected as the type species [by Latreille] in 1810, is, on the other hand correct but (as shown in paragraph 4(b) above) is irrelevant in the present connection, as that nominal species was not included by Linnaeus in the genus *Oniscus* at the time when he established that nominal genus.

6. We have now to note that for many years prior to the issue of *Opinion* 104 the nominal species *Oniscus murarius* Cuvier, 1792, was treated as being the type species of the genus *Oniscus* Linnaeus. It was, for example, so treated by Apstein in his celebrated paper "*Nomina Conservanda*" published in 1915 (*SitzBer. Ges. nat. Freunde Berlin* 1915 : 145), from which the proposal voted on by the Commission in *Opinion* 104 was undoubtedly derived. The citation as the type species of a genus of a nominal species which was not included in that genus by the original author of the generic name in question is incorrect under the *Règles* and by reason of the subjective element which it so introduces into the nomenclature of the genus concerned is open to strong objection. Nevertheless, for many years this practice was often considered legitimate and was widely adopted. One of the worst features of this practice was, as is now recognised, that it often postponed for many decades the making of a valid selection of an originally included species to be the type species of the genus in question. This, so far as can be ascertained, is what happened in the present case.

7. The next point which has to be noted is that for many years now specialists have regarded the nominal species *Oniscus murarius* Cuvier, 1792, as representing the same taxonomic unit as that represented by the nominal species *Oniscus asellus* Linnaeus, 1758. Thus, on taxonomic grounds the non-included nominal species (*murarius* Cuvier) regarded by Apstein and his predecessors as being the type species of *Oniscus* Linnaeus, has been identified as representing the same taxon as that represented by the originally included nominal species *Oniscus asellus* Linnaeus. Under a decision taken by the Thirteenth International Congress of Zoology, Paris, 1948 (1950, *Bull. zool. Nomencl.* 4 : 181—182) an author is to be accepted as having made a valid selection of a type species of a genus if he states that a given originally included species is the type species, irrespective of whether he states, either correctly or incorrectly, that the species in question had been selected by some previous author or had become the type species through the operation of some rule (e.g. the so-called Law of Elimination) not recognised in the present *Règles*. Accordingly, a valid selection of *Oniscus asellus* Linnaeus to be the type species of the genus *Oniscus* Linnaeus is to be held to have been made by any author who states incorrectly that that species is the type species through the action of Latreille or any other author, even though neither Latreille nor anyone else ever made such a selection.

8. The first author to state that through the action of some previous author—in this particular case, Latreille in [1803—1804]—*Oniscus asellus* Linnaeus was the type species of the genus *Oniscus* Linnaeus appears to have been Stiles himself when preparing the statement of the case reproduced in *Opinion* 104. Under the Paris decision quoted in paragraph 7 above Stiles is therefore to be held himself to have selected the above nominal species to be the type species of the genus *Oniscus* Linnaeus, even though he clearly stated that in his belief—incorrect, as we now know—that selection had been made by some unspecified author in 1804. Since no valid type selection had previously been made for this genus, its type species under the *Règles* is *Oniscus asellus* Linnaeus, 1758 by selection by Stiles (1928, *Smithson. misc. Coll.* 73 (No. 5) : 27). That this is so is very fortunate in that it is in harmony with current taxonomic practice and in addition provides a valid basis for the Ruling given at the time when the name *Oniscus* Linnaeus was placed on the *Official List*.

9. What is required in the present case is therefore that an amended entry, corrected as above and stripped of the subjective synonymisation of the name of the type species with the name of another species, should now be inserted in the *Official List* in substitution for the entry for the generic name *Oniscus* Linnaeus made by the Ruling given in *Opinion* 104. At the same time the specific name *asellus* Linnaeus, 1758, as

published in the combination *Oniscus asellus*, as the valid specific name for the type species of the above genus, should be placed on the *Official List of Specific Names in Zoology*. Finally, under the "Completeness-of-Opinions" Rule the invalid homonym *asellus* Cuvier, 1792, as published in the combination *Oniscus asellus*, should be placed on the *Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Specific Names in Zoology*. No action is called for as regards either the generic name *Porcellio* Latreille or the specific name of the type species of that genus, those names having already been placed on the appropriate *Official Lists*.

10. For the reasons set out above it is recommended that the International Commission should :—

- (1) substitute on the *Official List of Generic Names in Zoology* the following revised entry relating to the name *Oniscus Linnaeus*, 1758, in place of the entry made thereon by the Ruling given in *Opinion 104* :—

Oniscus Linnaeus, 1758, *Syst. Nat.* (ed. 10) 1 : 636 (gender : masculine) (type species, by selection by Stiles (C.W.), 1928 (*Smithson. misc. Coll.* 73 (No. 5) : 27) : *Oniscus asellus* Linnaeus, 1758, *Syst. Nat.* (ed. 10) 1 : 637).

- (2) place the under-mentioned specific name on the *Official List of Specific Names in Zoology* :—

asellus Linnaeus, 1758, as published in the combination *Oniscus asellus* (specific name of type species of *Oniscus* Linnaeus, 1758)

- (3) place the under-mentioned specific name on the *Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Specific Names in Zoology* :—

asellus Cuvier, 1792, as published in the combination *Oniscus asellus* (a junior homonym of *asellus* Linnaeus, 1758, as published in the combination *Oniscus asellus*).

2. Registration of the present application : As soon as the need for further action in regard to the entry on the *Official List*

of *Generic Names in Zoology* respecting the generic name *Oniscus* Linnaeus, 1758, came to light, the issue so raised was allotted the Registered Number Z.N.(S.) 1127.

II. THE DECISION TAKEN BY THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION ON ZOOLOGICAL NOMENCLATURE

3. Issue of Voting Paper V.P.(O.M.)(57)16 : On 20th September 1957 a Voting Paper (V.P.(O.M.)(57)16) was issued in which the Members of the Commission were invited to vote either for, or against, " the proposal relating to generic name *Oniscus* Linnaeus, 1758, as set out in paragraph 10 of the paper bearing the Registered Number Z.N.(S.) 1127 [i.e. in the paragraph numbered as above in the paper reproduced in the first paragraph of the present *Direction*] submitted by the Secretary simultaneously with the present Voting Paper ".

4. Discovery of an earlier type selection for the genus " *Oniscus* " Linnaeus, 1758, than the earliest such selection previously detected in the literature : During the Prescribed Voting Period attention was drawn by Dr. L. B. Holthuis to a selection of a type species for the nominal genus *Oniscus* Linnaeus, 1758, of older date than the earliest such selection previously detected in the literature. The selection so brought to light was that made by Desmarest (E.) in 1858 (*in* Chenu, *Ency. Hist. nat.* (Crust. Moll. Zooph.) : 53). Following the receipt of this information Mr. Hemming, as Secretary, executed a Minute on 8th October 1957 directing that the type selection by Desmarest specified above be inserted in the proposal relating to this case in place of the selection specified in the paper bearing the Registered Number Z.N.(S.) 1127 which had been submitted to the Commission on 20th September 1957 at the time of the issue of Voting Paper V.P.(O.M.)(57)16.

5. The Prescribed Voting Period : As the foregoing Voting Paper was issued under the One-Month Rule, the Prescribed Voting Period closed on 20th October 1957.

6. Particulars of the Voting on Voting Paper V.P.(O.M.)(57)16 : At the close of the Prescribed Voting Period, the state of the voting on Voting Paper V.P.(O.M.)(57)16 was as follows :—

(a) *Affirmative Votes had been given by the following twenty-five (25) Commissioners (arranged in the order in which Votes were received) :*

Bodenheimer ; Lemche ; Boschma ; Riley ; Hankó ;
Sylvester-Bradley ; Mayr ; Stoll ; Bradley (J.C.) ; Hering ;
Esaki ; Vokes ; Jaczewski ; do Amaral ; Mertens ;
Dymond ; Key ; Hemming ; Holthuis ; Cabrera ; Tor-
tonese ; Kühnelt ; Bonnet ; Prantl ; Miller ;

(b) *Negative Votes :*

None ;

(c) *Voting Papers not returned :*

None.

7. Declaration of Result of Vote : On 21st October 1957, Mr. Hemming, Secretary to the International Commission, acting as Returning Officer for the Vote taken on Voting Paper V.P.(O.M.)(57)16, signed a Certificate that the Votes cast were as set out in paragraph 6 above and declaring that the proposal

submitted in the foregoing Voting Paper had been duly adopted and that the decision so taken was the decision of the International Commission in the matter aforesaid.

8. Preparation of the Ruling given in the present "Direction" :

On 21st November 1957, Mr. Hemming prepared the Ruling given in the present *Direction* and at the same time signed a Certificate that the terms of that Ruling were in complete accord with those of the proposal approved by the International Commission in its Vote on Voting Paper V.P.(O.M.)(57)16.

9. Family-Group-Name Problem : As in other cases concerned with the correction of entries made on the *Official List of Generic Names in Zoology* in the period up to the close of 1936, the family-group-name aspect of the present case has been postponed in order to permit of its being submitted to the Commission at a later date in a paper dealing comprehensively with the family-group-name problems arising in connection with all the generic names in the group concerned placed on the foregoing *Official List* in the above period.

10. The following are the original references for the specific names placed on the *Official List of Specific Names in Zoology* by the Ruling given in the present *Direction* and for the specific name placed by the same Ruling on the *Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Specific Names in Zoology* :—

asellus, *Oniscus*, Linnaeus, 1758, *Syst. Nat.* (ed. 10) **1** : 637

asellus, *Oniscus*, Cuvier (G.L.C.F.D.), 1792, *J. Hist. nat.* (Choix des Mém.) **2** : 23

11. The following is the reference for the selection of a type species for a nominal genus specified in the Ruling given in the present *Direction* :—

For *Oniscus* Linnaeus,
1758

Desmarest (E.), 1858, in Chenu,
Ency. Hist. nat. (Crust. Moll.
Zooph.) : 53

12. The prescribed procedures were duly complied with by the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature in dealing with the present case, and the present *Direction* is accordingly hereby rendered in the name of the said International Commission by the under-signed Francis Hemming, Secretary to the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature, in virtue of all and every the powers conferred upon him in that behalf.

13. The present *Direction* shall be known as *Direction Eighty-Eight (88)* of the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature.

DONE in London, this Twenty-First day of November, Nineteen Hundred and Fifty-Seven.

*Secretary to the International Commission
on Zoological Nomenclature*

FRANCIS HEMMING

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